

The Jesus Difference – Week 3 – 2-19-23 - Pastor Bill

1. What events have made the biggest difference in your life?
2. Would you consider yourself someone who likes change or likes consistency?
3. What changes has knowing Jesus made to your life?

*Ephesians 4:1-4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

4. Have you ever thought of yourself as a “prisoner for the Lord”?
5. Why do you think that Paul uses this language of being a prisoner?
6. What does it mean to you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received?
7. In verses 2-3 Paul lists some character traits that we should have as Christians. Which ones come easiest for you? Which ones are hardest?
8. Pastor Bill said that God wants us to be more than saved, He wants us to be sanctified. How are you being sanctified?

*Ephesians 4:17 - So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. <sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. <sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

9. Verse 17 instructs to no longer live as the Gentiles (non-believers) do.
10. What stands out to you the most from these verses?
11. In Ephesians 4:22 Paul tells believers to put off your old self. What are some things that you have had to put off?
12. What are some things that you are still struggling to put off?
13. How could you invite Jesus into the areas of life that you struggle in?
14. Ephesians 4:23 says to be “made new in the attitude of your minds”. How does this take place?
15. Why does it matter what we think about and allow into our minds?
16. Ephesians 4:24 then says to put on the new self. How do we “put on” the new self?
17. Why is it important to put on a new way of life after we have put off the old?
18. Ephesians 4:27 tells us, “do not give the devil a foothold”. How do we give the devil a foothold in our lives?
19. How do we stop giving the devil a foothold?
20. According to Ephesians 4:29 how should we judge the words that come out of our mouths.
21. What is your next step in response to this message.